

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- Claim 1.       **(Cancelled)**
- Claim 2.       **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 25, wherein said steric interference is provided by said solid support.
- Claim 3.       **(Cancelled)**
- Claim 4.       **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~claim 3~~ claim 26, wherein said support is controlled pore glass or a porous polymeric material.
- Claim 5.       **(Withdrawn)** A method for assaying one or more target analytes in a sample, wherein said method comprises:
- (A)   providing, for at least one target analyte to be assayed, a binding ligand of said target analyte, said binding ligand being bound to a solid support; wherein said support comprises bound interfering molecules that sterically interfere with the ability of said binding ligand to bind to said target analyte but does not hinder the binding of all other target analyte(s) to all other binding ligand(s);
  - (B)   determining, for such target analyte(s), the presence, absence, activity or concentration of said target analyte(s), by determining the extent of binding between said target analyte and said solid-support-bound binding ligand of said target analyte.

- Claim 6.       **(Withdrawn)** A method for assaying one or more target analytes in a sample, wherein said method comprises:
- (A)     providing, for at least one target analyte to be assayed, a binding ligand of said target analyte, said binding ligand being bound to a solid support; wherein the ability of said binding ligand to bind to said target analyte is hindered by a chemical interference that does not hinder the binding of all other target analyte(s) to all other binding ligand(s);
  - (B)     determining, for such target analyte(s), the presence, absence, activity or concentration of said target analyte(s), by determining the extent of binding between said target analyte and said solid-support-bound binding ligand of said target analyte.
- Claim 7.       **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 6, wherein said chemical interference is provided by said solid support.
- Claim 8.       **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 6, wherein said support comprises a plasticized organic phase particle, and wherein said binding ligand is immobilized within the confines of such particle.
- Claim 9.       **(Withdrawn)** A method for assaying one or more target analytes in a sample, wherein said method comprises:
- (A)     providing, for at least one target analyte to be assayed, a binding ligand of said target analyte, said binding ligand being bound to a solid support; wherein said support comprises bound interfering molecules that chemically interfere with the ability of said binding ligand to bind to said target analyte but which do not hinder the binding of all other target analyte(s) to all other binding ligand(s);
  - (B)     determining, for such target analyte(s), the presence, absence, activity or concentration of said target analyte(s), by determining

the extent of binding between said target analyte and said solid-support-bound binding ligand of said target analyte.

- Claim 10.     **(Withdrawn)** The method of any of claims 5 or 9, wherein said interfering molecules hinder binding by presenting a partial barrier to binding by said target analyte.
- Claim 11.     **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 10, wherein said interfering or competing molecules comprise a tethered chain of at least 5 carbon atoms.
- Claim 12.     **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~claim 1~~ **claim 25**, wherein said determination of the extent of binding between a target analyte and a binding ligand of said solid support comprises incubating said solid support in the presence of a detectably labeled binding ligand-binding molecule and determining the presence, absence, or concentration of detectably labeled binding ligand-binding bound to said solid-support-bound binding ligand of said target analyte.
- Claim 13.     **(Original)** The method of claim 12, wherein said detectable label of said detectably labeled binding ligand-binding molecule is a fluorescent label.
- Claim 14.     **(Original)** The method of any of claim 12, wherein said determination of the extent of binding between said target analyte and said binding ligand of said solid support said step (B) employs flow cytometry.
- Claim 15.     **(Withdrawn)** A composition for assaying a target analyte, which comprises a binding ligand of said target analyte bound to a solid support, wherein said support provides a steric interference that hinders the ability of said target analyte to bind to said bound binding ligand.
- Claim 16.     **(Withdrawn)** The composition of claim 15, wherein said support is porous and wherein binding ligand is bound to said support within the

pores of said support and said pores sterically interfere with the ability of said binding ligand to bind to said target analyte.

- Claim 17.     **(Withdrawn)** The composition of claim 16, wherein said support is controlled pore glass or a porous polymeric material.
- Claim 18.     **(Withdrawn)** A composition for assaying a target analyte, which comprises a binding ligand of said target analyte bound to a solid support, wherein said support provides a chemical interference that hinders the ability of said target analyte to bind to said bound binding ligand.
- Claim 19.     **(Withdrawn)** The composition of claim 18, wherein said support comprises a plasticized organic phase particle, and wherein said binding ligand is immobilized within the confines of such particle.
- Claim 20.     **(Withdrawn)** The composition of any of claims 15 or 18, wherein said support comprises bound interfering molecules that interfere with the ability of said binding ligand to bind to said target analyte.
- Claim 21.     **(Withdrawn)** The composition of claim 20, wherein said interfering molecules hinder binding by presenting a partial barrier to binding by said target analyte.
- Claim 22.     **(Withdrawn)** The composition of claim 21, wherein said interfering molecules comprise a tethered chain of at least 5 carbon atoms.
- Claim 23.     **(Withdrawn)** A kit for assaying a target analyte, which comprises:  
              (A)     a first container containing a binding ligand of said target analyte bound to a solid support, wherein said support provides a steric or chemical interference that hinders the ability of said target analyte to bind to said bound binding ligand; and

- (B) a second container containing a detectably labeled binding ligand-binding molecule.

Claim 24. **(Withdrawn)** The kit of claim 23, wherein said detectable label is a fluorescent label.

Claim 25. **(New)** A method for assaying multiple target analytes in a sample, wherein said method comprises:

- (A) providing a plurality of solid supports, wherein for each of said multiple target analytes to be assayed, a solid support is provided which comprises a bound binding ligand capable of specifically binding such target analyte;
- (B) incubating said sample in the presence of said supports under conditions sufficient to permit binding between binding ligands and target analytes, wherein for at least one target analyte, the ability to bind binding ligand of a support is hindered by a steric interference that does not hinder the binding of other target analyte(s) to other binding ligand(s), and, for at least one other target analyte, the ability to bind binding ligand of a support is unhindered;
- (C) determining, for each of said multiple target analytes to be assayed, the presence, absence, activity or concentration of such target analyte, by determining the extent of binding between said target analyte and said solid-support-bound binding ligand of said target analyte.

Claim 26. **(New)** A method for assaying multiple target analytes in a sample, wherein said method comprises:

- (A) providing a plurality of solid supports, wherein for each of said multiple target analytes to be assayed, a solid support is provided

which comprises a bound binding ligand capable of specifically binding such target analyte;

- (B) incubating said sample in the presence of said supports under conditions sufficient to permit binding between binding ligands and target analytes, wherein for at least one target analyte, the support is porous and binding ligand is bound to such porous support within the pores of said support and said pores sterically interfere with the ability of binding ligand to bind to target analyte; and, for at least one other target analytes, the ability to bind binding ligand of a support is unhindered;
- (C) determining, for each of said multiple target analytes to be assayed, the presence, absence, activity or concentration of such target analyte, by determining the extent of binding between said target analyte and said solid-support-bound binding ligand of said target analyte.